

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 CU-04 ACDA-19 NIC-01 IO-12 GAC-01 EA-11 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7723

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3701

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, EG

SUBJ: SOVIET MFA'S VIEWS ON EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES AND
HEIKAL

1. MFA NEAR EAST COUNSELOR PYRLIN TOLD EMBOFF ON APRIL 3
THAT MOSCOW INTERPRETS GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN EGYPT AS SADAT
EFFORT
TO CONCENTRATE POWER IN HIS OWN HANDS. REMOVAL OF MAREI FROM
ASU LEADERSHIP IS SADAT EFFORT TO BRING ASU CLOSER INTO LINE WITH
SADAT'S THANKING ESPECIALLY NOW THAT TIME FOR UNION WITH LIBYA
IS APPROACHING. ACCORDING TO PYRLIN, SADAT IS STILL PEEVED ABOUT
CRITICISM DURING STUDENT DIFFICULTIES FROM SOME ELEMENTS IN ASU,
AND SOVIET BELIEVE SIDKY LOST PREMIERSHIP BECUASE HE TOO WAS
CRITICAL OF SADAT'S HANDLING OF STUDENT DISTURBANCES.

2. ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT SADAT MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING
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MILITARY MOVES AGAINST ISRAEL IN NEAR FUTURE, PYRLIN REPLIED THAT THIS IS " UNLIKELY." PYRLIN SADI SOVIETS ARE ARARE OF SADAT' S FRUSTRATIONS BUT HAVE DETECTED NO PREPARATORY EFFORTS IN EGYPT FOR MILITARY ACTION. (NEVERTHELESS, WE NOTE THAT SOVIET PRESS APRIL 4 HAS BEEN QUICK TO REPORT SUMMARIZED VERSION OF NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH SADAT HIGHLIGHTING EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT' S COMMENTS THAT " TIME HAS COME FOR DECISIVE STEP," ADN THAT " REMOVAL OF BATTLE AGAINST AGRESSOR IS NOW INEVITABLE.")

3. RESPONDING TO QUERY REGARDING BITTER SOVIET PRESS ATTACK ON AL AHRAH EDITOR HEIKAL, PYRLIN SAID MOSCOW WAS ESPECAILLY ANNOYED BY PERSONAL ATTACKS ON SOVIET LEADERS CONTAINED IN ARTICLES FOLLOWING HEIKAL' S TRIP TO CHINA. WHILE SOVIETS DO NOT CONSIDER HEIKAL TO BE AS INFLUENTAIL AS HE WAS IN NASSER' S TIME, PYRLIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AL AHRAH EDITOR IS STILL RESPECTED FIGURE IN ARAB WORLD AND HIS ARTICLES VERY POPULAR. ACCORDING TO PYRLIN, AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV WAS INSTRUCTED TO COMPLAIN TO SIDKY ABOUT HEIKAL, AND SIDKY ASSURED SOVIET ENOVY THAT HEIKAL ATTACKS ON SOVIETS WOULD STOP. PYRLIN SAID SOVIETS NEVER DEMANDED AND DO NOT EXPECT HEIKAL TO BE REMOVED FROM HIS JOB AS AL AHRAH EDITOR.
DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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BEIRUT
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